

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for contact management comprising the steps implemented by one or more computers of:
 - maintaining an address book;
 - receiving, from a user, filter settings defining criteria for determining whether to add incoming calls to the address book, the filter settings received from the user specifying one or more telephone numbers, locations, devices, or names for which associated contact-related information is not added to the address book;
 - providing a notification, via a user terminal, of an incoming call initiated by a calling party and directed to a communication device;
 - determining whether the incoming call meets the criteria defined by the filter settings to be added to the address book; and
 - obtaining contact-related information associated with the calling party in response to the received command and adding the obtained contact-related information to the address book, provided the incoming call meets the criteria defined by the filter settings to be added to the address book,
 - wherein the filter settings are received from the user in advance of the incoming call.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein maintaining an address book comprises maintaining the address book in a server coupled to a network.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein maintaining an address book comprises maintaining an XML-over-HTTP web service in a database.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the notification indicates a telephone number associated with the incoming call.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein obtaining contact-related information comprises obtaining at least one of a name, a home address, a business address, a facsimile number, an e-mail address, an instant messenger address, an IP address, a cell phone number, a landline telephone number, an image, an audio signal, or a public record associated with the calling party.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein obtaining contact-related information comprises obtaining the contact-related information based on a telephone number associated with the calling party.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein obtaining contact-related information comprises obtaining the contact-related information using a caller identification (CID) service.

9-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for contact management comprising the steps implemented by one or more computers of:

- maintaining an address book for a user;
- receiving a command to add a party to the address book;
- obtaining contact-related information associated with the party in response to the received command;
- storing the obtained contact-related information in the address book; and
- periodically updating the contact-related information stored in the address book, independently of communications between the user and the party.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein maintaining an address book comprises maintaining the address book in a server coupled to a network.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 35, wherein maintaining an address book comprises maintaining an XML-over-HTTP web service in a database.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein obtaining contact-related information comprises obtaining contact-related information from at least one network.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein obtaining contact-related information comprises obtaining at least one of a name, a home address, a business address, a facsimile number, an e-mail address, an instant messenger address, an IP address, a cell phone number, or a landline telephone number.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein obtaining contact-related information comprises obtaining at least one of an image, an audio signal, or a public record associated with the party.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, further comprising detecting an addition to the obtained contact-related information.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, further comprising detecting a change in the obtained contact-related information by receiving a message from a network indicating the change.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, further comprising detecting the change in the obtained contact-related information in response to a call received from the party.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, further comprising detecting a change in the obtained contact-related information by receiving a message from a second address book associated with the party.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, further comprising detecting a change in the obtained contact-related information by searching a plurality of network-based resources.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 44, wherein searching a plurality of network-based resources comprises periodically searching said resources.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34, wherein updating the address book to reflect the change in the contact-related

information comprises automatically updating the address book without user intervention.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34 further comprising:

notifying the user of the change in the contact-related information.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 47 further comprising:

updating the address book to reflect the change in the contact-related information in response to a command from the user to update the address book.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34 further comprising:

generating a query to determine whether to update the address book, prior to updating the address book to reflect the change in the contact-related information.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 49, wherein updating the address book to reflect the change in the contact-related information comprises updating the address book based on an affirmative response to the query.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 34 further comprising:

receiving instructions from the user that specify preferences for updating the address book.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 51, wherein updating the address book to reflect the change in the contact-related information comprises updating the address book based on the preferences.

53. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for causing a computer processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

maintaining an address book;

receiving, from a user, filter settings defining criteria for determining whether to add incoming calls to the address book, the filter settings received from the user specifying one or more telephone numbers, locations, devices, or names for which associated contact-related information is not added to the address book;

providing a notification, via a user terminal, of an incoming call initiated by a calling party and directed to a communication device;

determining whether the incoming call meets the criteria defined by the filter settings to be added to the address book; and

obtaining contact-related information associated with the calling party in response to the received command and adding the obtained contact-related information to the address book, provided the incoming call meets the criteria defined by the filter settings to be added to the address book,

wherein the filter settings are received from the user in advance of the incoming call.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 53, wherein the filter settings specify at least one telephone number, at least one location, at least one device, and at least one name for which associated contact-related information is not added to the address book.

56. (Currently Amended) A system comprising at least one server computer configured to:

maintain an address book;

receive, from a user, filter settings defining criteria for determining whether to add incoming calls to the address book, the filter settings received from the user specifying one or more telephone numbers, locations, devices, or names for which associated contact-related information is not added to the address book;

provide a notification, via a user terminal, of an incoming call initiated by a calling party and directed to a communication device;

determine whether the incoming call meets the criteria defined by the filter settings to be added to the address book; and

obtain contact-related information associated with the calling party in response to the received command and adding the obtained contact-related information to the address book, provided the incoming call meets the criteria defined by the filter settings to be added to the address book,

wherein the filter settings are received from the user in advance of the incoming call.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 56, wherein the filter settings specify at least one telephone number, at least one location, at least one device, and at least one name for which associated contact-related information is not added to the address book.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for causing a computer processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

maintaining an address book for a user;

receiving a command to add a party to the address book;
obtaining contact-related information associated with the party in response to the received command;
storing the obtained contact-related information in the address book; and
periodically updating the contact-related information stored in the address book, independently of communications between the user and the party.

60. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 59, wherein periodically updating comprises refreshing the contact-related information stored in the address book at fixed intervals of time.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 60, further comprising updating the address book to reflect contact-related information included in one or more other address books.

62. (Previously Presented) A system comprising at least one server computer configured to:

maintain an address book for a user;
receive a command to add a party to the address book;
obtain contact-related information associated with the party in response to the received command;
store the obtained contact-related information in the address book; and

periodically update the contact-related information stored in the address book, independently of communications between the user and the party.

63. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein periodically updating comprises refreshing the contact-related information stored in the address book at fixed intervals of time.

64. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 62, wherein the at least one server computer is further configured to update the address book to reflect contact-related information included in one or more other address books.